

CLAIMS

1. A method for initiating a connection between a first computer (19) connected to an IP network (13) and at least one second computer (3) connected to a network (1) where the location is indicated by another number than an IP-address, the two networks being connected through at least one access router (9,11;63), the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving in a device (21;61) in the IP network from the first computer (19) a request of being connected to the at least one second computer (3);
 - identifying, in the device (21;61) a number corresponding to the IP-address of each second computer (3);
 - providing information about this at least one corresponding number to one of the access routers (11;63);
 - receiving this information in the access router (11;63), which sets up a line from the first computer (19) to each second computer (3);
 - connecting the first computer (19) with the at least one second computer (3).
2. A method according to claim 1, **characterised by** using an address data base (23; 65) connected to the device (21;61) to match the IP-address to a number.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, **characterised by** identifying the IP-address with a telephone number.
4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterised by** receiving in the device (21) a request from the first computer (19) for a connection to the at least one second computer (3), said device (21) being connected to the IP-network (13) and to the access routers (9,11).
5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterised by** using a free line data base (25), comprising information about which lines from the ac-

cess routers (9,11) that are free at the moment, to choose a line for the connection.

- 5 6. A method according to any one of the claims 1-3, **characterised by** receiving in an access router (63) the request from the first computer (19) for a connection to the at least one second computer (3), sending a question about the IP-address and number correspondence from the access router (63) to the device (61) and receiving an answer in the access router (63) from the device (61).
- 10 7. A device for identifying a number to an IP-address, **characterised in that** the device (21;61) is connectable to at least one access router (9,11;63) and in that it comprises device receiving means (34;76) for receiving a request for address information, retrieving means (36;78), connected to the device receiving means (34;76), for forwarding this request to an address data base (23;65) and for receiving the answer from the address data base (23;65) and information means (43;88), connected to the retrieving means (36;78), for informing the access router (9,11;63) about this number correspondence.
- 15 8. A device according to claim 7, **characterised in that** it is connectable to a free line data base (25) and in that the retrieving means (36) is adapted to also send a question to the free line data base (25) about which lines that are free to use for the moment and in that the retrieving means (36) also is adapted to receive an answer from the free line data base (25) and in that the informing means (43) is also adapted to inform the access router (9,11;63) about which line that should be used for the connection.
- 20 9. A device according to claim 7 or 8, **characterised in that** it is adapted to be placed in the IP-network (13) and to be in contact with more than one access router (9,11).
- 25 30

10. A device according to claim 7 or 8, **characterised in that** it is adapted to be placed in, or in direct connection to, each access router (9,63).

5 11. An access router adapted for connecting an IP-network (13) and a network (1) where the location is indicated by another number than an IP-address to each other, **characterised in that** it comprises information receiving means (45;90) adapted for receiving information from a device (21;61) about the IP-address and number correspondence and/or which line out from the access router (9,11;63) that should be used for a connection.

10 12. An access router according to claim 11, **characterised in that** it comprises sending means (75) from which a request is sent to the device (61) about the IP-address and number correspondence and/or which line out from the access router (63) that should be used for the connection.

15 13. An access router according to claim 11 or 12, **characterised in that** it comprises a device (61) according to claim 7 or 8.

20 14. A network comprising interconnected subnetworks with different address number systems, **characterised in that** it comprises a device according to any one of the claims 7-10 and an access router according to any one of the claims 11-13.